



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### **Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Statement to address customers of the New Orleans East Plant wishing to commence operations prior to its startup:**

Hurricane Katrina damaged and/or destroyed much of southern Louisiana wastewater treatment systems. As a result, the New Orleans East Wastewater treatment plant is inoperable. The storm also damaged a substantial portion of the collection system that transports wastewater streams to that facility.

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans is the permitted entity for treatment of all wastewater streams entering the sanitary collection system in the City of New Orleans. Any circumstances brought about by the hurricane that cause upset or bypass of the treatment system are conditions covered under the LDEQ Amended Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order, Sept. 3, 2005, for the permitted Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, the SWBNO.

Until the East Wastewater Treatment Facility can accept wastewater, customers who want to begin operations, must provide adequate wastewater treatment. They must also get proper approval from DEQ to discharge into Louisiana waters, including the municipal stormwater system for the City of New Orleans. The SWBNO is the authority over generation of wastewater streams causing upset or bypass of the wastewater treatment system or collection system.

Please contact Lenny Young, Administrator, LDEQ, Office of Environmental Services at 225-219-3181 for additional assistance. The SWBNO has opened a satellite office in Baton Rouge and can be contacted at 225-379-3601. All the regulations are covered in the Declaration of Emergency and Administrative order are available on the LDEQ website, [www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov).